Approved For Release 2007/11/21 : CIA-RDP83M00914R002100150037-7

Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

DDCI signed 6 Oct 81, per LLB Registry - letter was mailed.

Executive Registry
81-7349/6

Honorable David A. Stockman
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Dave:

Your staff recently informed us that the Department of Education strongly opposes H.R. 3231, the pending Bill proposed by Representative Paul Simon, Chairman of the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, which would provide Federal assistance to enhance foreign language programs in our schools, colleges, and universities. I strongly object to Administration opposition to this Bill. It has long been my belief that the foreign language capabilities of this Country have been rapidly deteriorating and that one of the most obvious results of this deterioration is the adverse impact that it is having in the Intelligence Community.

You well know the importance that adequate foreign language capabilites play in the conduct of the work of the Intelligence Community. This importance cannot be overstated. Now, more than ever, we must be able to translate and assimilate a vast amount of information as fast as possible in order to effectively and correctly analyze it so that we may provide good information to our Country's foreign policymakers. As you are aware, a great deal of this information requires the use of foreign language expertise. Within the area of human source collection we are also critically dependent on strong foreign language capability. The very success of our officers overseas is dependent on their ability to develop feelings of trust and confidence with those with whom they deal. To do so we must be able to converse in the other person's language. In recent years we have lost many of our most experienced officers who not only had great expertise in operational or analytical areas but who also had strong foreign language capabilities in a second, third, or fourth language. As well, the U.S. has lost the large talent bank of second generation Americans where another language was spoken at home. Consequently, in order for this Nation to forge ahead and meet the demands imposed on us in the intelligence area, we must now take decisive action to ensure improvement in the foreign language training of our youth.

My strong belief on this matter was strongly endorsed by my years as the Director of the National Security Agency and its relevance to our Nation's well-being has become ever more apparent since serving as the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence. In the coming years, the Intelligence Community plans to expand its relations with the academic community. We have long relied on foreign language assistance from academicians throughout the Country. In order to nurture this new expanded relationship, I believe we must take every opportunity available

Approved For Release 2007/11/21 : CIA-RDP83M00914R002100150037-7

Approved For Release 2007/11/21 : CIA-RDP83M00914R002100150037-7

to us to support programs that are important to not only the academic community but that also have obvious benefit to ourselves. Representative Simon's Bill is an effort in this regard. Rather than opposing and possibly killing the Bill, I believe it is essential that we work with him on it. I do not disagree that the Department of Education has raised significant concerns regarding some of the technical provisions of the Bill itself--that is their purview. However, opposition by this Administration will have far-reaching effects within the Intelligence Community. In recent decades we have witnessed many universities and colleges dropping foreign language requirements as part of the mandatory curriculum. If we stifle Congressional action on this Bill we may well be perpetuating inaction on any Bills to help improve this Country's foreign language abilities. Representative Simon's Bill is a step in the right direction and one that the Administration should not impede.

Sincerely,

B. R. INMAN
Admiral, U.S. Navy
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Approved For Release 2007/11/21 : CIA-RDP83M00914R002100150037-7